

As a consumer I am disturbed by the continued efforts of Hollywood to hide behind the mantra of piracy as they attempt to impose their Digital Rights Management schemes on consumers. Requiring a "Broadcast Flag" takes away the rights currently enjoyed and exercised by people while not meeting its stated goal of curbing piracy.

The current proposal would remove rights I currently enjoy such as time shifting my viewing habits and archiving video footage for my personal use.

Unfortunately, piracy will continue and the use of a "Broadcast Flag" will do nothing to curb this. Pirates will circumvent the flag and continue to pirate content.

We have heard the whining of Hollywood before as they have been resistant to technological change for the last 50 years. 3 years ago Steven Spielberg said he would never release his biggest hit movies on DVD because of DVD's lack of content protection. DVD security was cracked and I guess he realized his fears were unfounded because he released Close Encounters of the Third Kind a year ago and ET a month ago. DVDs continue to sell and will continue to sell in the future.

Furthermore, who is Hollywood to give electronics manufacturers permission to make their products. Hollywood would work to stifle innovation and maintain a stranglehold on the rights of consumers.

I implore the FCC NOT to impede the progress of Digital TV and NOT introduce any requirement for a "Broadcast Flag". The flag does little to address its stated objective but strips US consumers of their current legal rights.

I hope the "Broadcast Flag" goes the way of Hollywood's attempts to squash VCRs or not broadcast their movies on color TVs in the '50s.

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